



Bouncing back from our Covid-19 lockdown

Following Government guidance in March this year our community drop-in centre sadly had to close down. However, we swiftly adapted our operational model and began offering:

- A delivery service of food, drink and other essential items to the vulnerably housed.
- Delivery of thousands of practical items to the homeless in temporary accommodation, with the support of donors.
- A range of bespoke emotional and practical support services via the phone and internet through a remote casework staff team.

On June 22nd we also relaunched provision at our centre with a takeaway café service, ensuring that we are operating safely in line with current Covid-19 Government guidance.

All services operate independently have been adapted to take account of a 90% decrease in volunteer capacity. We couldn't have achieved this without generous support from our donors.

Support from the local community

A huge thank you to all of our supporters who have helped us out by donating or raising funds over the past few months. Unfortunately we haven't got room to mention all of them, but here are just a few of the local organisations who have supported Oxford's homeless community through the Gatehouse recently.



Next steps until March 2021 including our new Autumn & Winter Appeal

The Gatehouse aims to continue to deliver all of the current services detailed above whilst demand for them remains, but also to adapt our service model to meet the ever changing needs of our Guests and ongoing Government guidance.

New developments include a counselling service and local Lived Experience Advisory Forum (in partnership with Aspire and the Oxfordshire Homeless Movement) in autumn 2020 so watch this space. See www.oxfordgatehouse.org for updates.

We are a donation and volunteer led charity, reliant on the support of local individuals and organisations.

Please donate to our 2020/2021 Autumn & Winter Appeal. All contributions, however large or small are appreciated.

See www.justgiving.com/campaign/GatehouseAWAppeal to donate.

A special thanks also to the Oxford Food Bank, who provide us with much of our food requirements, and without whom we couldn't continue to provide all of our vital services.



Thank you to Ann and Family

Ann volunteered both as a Coordinator and as a member of our Management Committee team for well over twenty years, but sadly she passed away in March 2020.

On June 22nd we re-opened the take away café in Ann's name as she was such an integral part of the Gatehouse. Her legacy lives on in another way as Ann's family raised £1,725 for the project in her memory, which has helped us massively.

Ann will forever be missed, but never forgotten.



Also thanks to the Government for a grant from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund, to help fund our staff, food and hall rental.

Takeaway café opening times ...

Mondays to Fridays— 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Sundays— 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Check www.oxfordgatehouse.org for updates

The Gatehouse Newsletter

Meet the team: - our Casework staff team

In 2017 the Gatehouse began offering a bespoke one to one support service for Guests when Hannah took up the role of One-to-One Worker: "I found that there was an immense need for this support in our setting," she explains. Since this time, the team has grown to also include Monica, Lu, Zoe and more recently Bill, plus a small team of volunteers.

During lockdown, the team adapted to start working with Guests remotely, offering a wide range of emotional and practical support, in particular reducing isolation for those living independently and alone. Funding from Hoper Dixon and OxFAP enabled the team to offer regular phone top up and internet access for some of the most isolated Guests.

The team have and will continue to support the vulnerably housed with physical and mental health needs, housing, financial information, welfare benefits, referrals to other organisations and many, many more needs that have arisen. The members of the 'women only space' have continued to engage with the team and the food and drink delivery service has also complimented this area of work.

We would like to thank OxFAP, Hoper Dixon, Oxfordshire Homeless Movement, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, Crisis and St Michael's and All Saints Charities for their support which has enabled this vital work to continue.

What the Casework Team does

- ◆ Meeting with individual guests on site (or during COVID-19, calling guests)
- ◆ Listening to and assessing their support needs
- ◆ Signposting & referring to appropriate support



Looking for something worthwhile to do in your spare time?

Why not join us as a regular volunteer and help run our evening drop in sessions throughout the year, or as a 'seasonal volunteer' providing back up around Easter, Christmas and the summer holidays when many of our regular volunteers are unavailable. A few hours of your spare time can help us to make a big difference to people's lives.

E-mail admin@oxfordgatehouse.org to volunteer today | For more details see: www.oxfordgatehouse.org/volunteer

Fundraising Initiatives - for more ways to donate see www.oxfordgatehouse.org/support-us/donate-money

The Oxford Lottery

Buy your lottery tickets for £1 each, the Gatehouse receives 50p and you have a chance of winning £25,000!

www.oxfordlottery.org/support/the-gatehouse



Gatehouse Autumn & Winter Appeal



Help us hit our £20,000 target!

We are asking for donations to help fund both of our current food provision

services (home delivery to vulnerably housed guests and a takeaway café service at our centre).

www.justgiving.com/campaign/GatehouseAWAppeal

Amazon Smile

Simply set up an Amazon Smile account, choose the Gatehouse as your charity, and we'll receive a donation every time you buy products. Go on, make us smile!

www.smile.amazon.co.uk



The Gatehouse

Supporting Oxford's homeless and vulnerably housed community since 1988



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